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An Exhibition of **DANISH DOMESTIC DESIGN**

1946–1947

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN
THE COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

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This exhibition is circulated by the Arts Council in collaboration with the Council of Industrial Design. It is intentionally simple and restricted in scale. Thanks are due to the *Society of Danish Handicraft and Industrial Art*, and especially to Mr. Sten Møller and Mr. Svend Erik Møller for organising the exhibition, and to Mrs. Estrid Bannister, who has acted as a link with the Danish Society and has written the introduction to this catalogue.

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INTRODUCTION

The Scope of the Exhibition

THIS small exhibition is deliberately limited in scope. It excludes, for example, the furnishings of wealthy Danish homes and contains nothing in the luxury class. It aims to give a picture of how a Dane earning about £500 a year can furnish a modest home—a picture more acceptable to the British citizen than a display of the expensive silver, china, glass and porcelain which distinguish the wealthier homes of prosperous Denmark.

The exhibits have been selected by the *Society of Danish Handicraft and Industrial Art*, a body (now forty years old) which, like our own Council of Industrial Design, seeks to co-ordinate policy and action in raising the standards of design and manufacture in articles of everyday use. Although the quality of these exhibits is impressive, it should be borne in mind that they are all war-time products, and that they do not fully represent the standards of workmanship and design which the Danes hope to recover within the next few years.

The Danish Interior

It is important to visualise the domestic setting in which the exhibits are used in Denmark. Most Danes live in flats. Their living-rooms, unlike ours, are not as a rule built around a fireplace, and are warmed either by central heating or by a massive stove which may occupy one of a dozen or more possible sites within the room. The focal-point, so to speak, of the Danish interior is not the fireplace, but the window, and her living-room windows are the pride of every Danish housewife. Here she assembles miniature gardens, or elaborate window-boxes, full of cacti, orchids, and other more or less exotic plants, and tends them with the zeal which English women give to their cats and dogs and canaries. Over Danish coffee-cups there is no commoner conversation than discussions of plant disease and systems of cultivation.

The cold climate of the country has, doubtless, much to do with this plant craze. The winter is longer and harder than ours, and since flowers are expensive to buy, one grows them indoors. The construction of the window itself has equally been influenced by these climatic conditions of a long, dark winter; and large undivided window-panes are utilised to admit the fullest possible amount of light. For a similar reason there is an extensive use of light colourings in the homes.

White walls and light gay wallpapers are very usual. Cretonnes, such as we use in England, have never found wide acceptance in Denmark. Danes cannot get over the feeling that the loose, light covers are only put there as dust covers to protect the material below from sun and wear. Many attempts have been made to introduce them, and though the cretonnes themselves have not generally caught on, they have helped to develop the fashion of light-coloured curtains and furniture-covers in Denmark. Handwoven materials for these, by the way, are much favoured, and this fashion has reinvigorated Danish weaving. All over the country weaving classes flourish, and every young girl seems to possess a loom.

Danish furniture, as the exhibits show, is functional without being faddy. Its designers did not lose their heads when the craze for steel tubing and reinforced glass swept some parts of Europe, and they consequently escaped the reaction into sham Empire and rococo which often developed on the morning after those orgies. Danish furniture is singularly well-planned to meet fitness-for-use, yet despite its emphasis on practicability it usually manages to be pleasant to look at as well. Its lines are simple without being stark, and the Danish preference for leaving wood in its natural colour imparts even to heavy pieces of furniture a pleasant sense of lightness. Even Cuban mahogany, thus unstained and undarkened, can produce furniture which never looks sombre and solid.

Some Danish Design Societies

Two Danish institutions have fostered the movement for good design in the home. Both of them are voluntary bodies. *Den Permanente*, a permanent exhibition which displays not only the work of all the leading art and handicraft firms, but also examples of the work of individual designers in furniture, glass, silver, porcelain, painting, sculpture, and applied art in general. Anything shown here has to pass a very strict test of admission which aims at preserving a high technical and artistic standard.

Secondly, there is *Haandarbejdets Fremme*, a society organised to develop embroidery and hand-weaving and to create a new source of income for women who wish to work at home. It has studios and schools where designs and models are made for weavers and needle-women, and a shop where the finished articles are sold. Here, also, every object sold through the society has to pass a committee of leading artists, and only things of the highest standard are accepted. The society, whose patroness is the Queen of Denmark (herself a keen needle-woman), has done invaluable work in preserving the old national crafts and eliminating the second rate from the modern home-art industry.

FURNITURE

The Association of Danish Co-operative Societies, Njalsgade 15, Copenhagen S.

1 A–E	Dining table and four chairs	*Børge Mogensen*
2	Sideboard	*Børge Mogensen*
3	Armchair	
4	Bed	
5 A–B	2 Shelves	
6	1 Mirror	
7	1 Lamp bracket	
8 A–D	1 Set of four trays	
9 A–B	1 Set of two trays	
10	Rocking chair	*Hans J. Wegner*
11 A–C	1 Child's table with two chairs	*Hans J. Wegner*
12	1 Child's bench	*Hans J. Wegner*
13	Lamp	*Birte Plum Gersov*
14	Reproductions from Danish Painters	

Fritz Hansen, Dronningensgade 3, Copenhagen S.

15 A–B	Ash wood sofa and cushion	*Herman Olsen*
16 A–B	Ash wood armchair and cushion	*Fritz Hansen*
17	Butler's tray in ash wood	*Fritz Hansen*
18	Mahogany easy chair with black ox-hide cover	*Ole Wancher*
19 A–B	Cherry wood rocking chair with cushion	*A. O. Larsen*
20	Table with white linoleum top	*Fritz Hansen*
21 A–D	4 Armchairs in beechwood with straw seats	*Hans J. Wegner*

Peder Moos, Bredgade 36, Copenhagen K.

22	Child's bed	

Haandarbejdets Fremme, Kongens, Nytorv, Copenhagen K.

23	1 Child's bed	

TEXTILES

Haandarbejdets Fremme, Kongens Nytorv, Copenhagen K.

24–31 8 examples of materials, one of which is hand-printed by Gudrun Stig Aagaard

Embroideries

32 A–B 2 Bedspreads

33 A–D 4 Doilies

Cushion and Rug

34 1 White fur cushion

35 1 Sheepskin rug

Hand-woven materials

Astrid Kahn, H.A. Clausensvej 19, Gentofte

36 A–B 2 examples of sports suiting

Marie Gudme Leth, Søndre Fasanvej 63, Copenhagen F.

37 A–C 3 lengths of hand-printed materials

Helga Foght, Overgade o. Vandet 34, Copenhagen S.

38 A–D 3 metres hand-printed material, stripe design

3·6 „ „ „ Polish design

5·25 „ „ „ Shepherd's plaid

4·2 „ „ „ Peruvian design

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND TABLEWARE

Haandarbejdets Fremme, Kongens Nytorv, Copenhagen K.

Ceramics

39 A–D 4 Cups and saucers

40 A–D 4 Plates

41 A–B 2 Biscuit jars

42 1 Teapot

43 A–B 2 Cake plates

44 A–B 2 Dishes one with lid

45 1 Case

46 1 Mug

Wood

47 A–D 4 Heart-shaped spoons

48 A–D 4 Boards

49 1 Spoon-holder

Furniture: Nos. 15, 16, 17, 19. *Tableware:* Nos. 39, 40, 42. *Textiles:* Nos. 37A, 38A and 38D.

Ceramics: Nos. 40, 41, 43, 44A, 44B and 45. *Table Mats:* Blue linen, hand-drawn. *Textiles:* No. 37B.

Tableware: Nos. 72, 73 74, 75, 77, 78, 81. *Stainless steel cutlery:* Nos. 53, 54, 57, 58 and 61.

Kitchenware of stainless steel: Nos. 54, 70A, 70B and 71A.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND TABLEWARE

50 A–B 2 Spoons
51 A–B 2 Flower wreaths
52 Straw table mat

Stainless steel

Carl M. Cohr, Silversmiths, Fredericia

53 A–H 4 Tablespoons and forks
54 A–H 4 Desertspoons and forks
55 Soup spoon
56 Ragout spoon
57 Compot spoon
58 Gravy spoon
59 Petit spoon
60 Bottle opener
61 A–B 2 Hors d'œuvres forks
62 Bowl
63 A–B 2 Sauce bowls
64 Dish with lid
65 Bowl
66 A–B 2 Plates
67 A–B 2 Dishes
68 1 Cup

Glud og Marstrand, Uplandsgade 20, Copenhagen S.

69 Coffee pot *Jais Nielsen*

Kitchenware

Ernst Voss factory, Fredericia

70 A–D 1 Colander, 1 funnel, game saucepan, soup ladle

Dishes

71 A–H Sauce boat, entrée dish, vegetable dish, soup tureen, 4 other dishes

KITCHEN AND TABLEWARE

Holmegaardens Glasværk, Nyhavn 12, Copenhagen K.

Table glassware

72 1 Caraffe *Per Lutken*
73 A–E 5 Gisselfeld glasses No. 1

KITCHEN AND TABLEWARE

74 A–E 5 Gisselfeld glasses No. 2
75 A–E 5 „ „ No. 3
76 A–E 5 „ champagne glasses

Ornamental glass

77 A–B 2 engraved white vases

Bing and Grøndahl, Vesterbrogade 149, Copenhagen V.

78 A–D 4 Plates — *Ebbe Sadolin*
79 1 Vegetable dish
80 1 Gravy boat
81 1 Assiette
82 1 Salad dish

STONEWARE

Saxbo Stentøj, Herlev Hovedgade 162, Herlev

83 1 Red cup — *Natalie Krebs*
84 1 Brown vase
85 A–B 2 Pale green bowls
86 1 Yellow bowl
87 Yellow heart
88 1 White cup
89 1 White vase
90 1 Black-brown ash tray
91 Violet vase
92 Stoneware by Eva Stæhr Nilesen

TOYS

Haandarbejdets Fremme

Greenland toys

93 A–B 2 Dolls
94 A–C 3 Boats
95 1 Horse
96 1 Doll

Kay Bojesens, Bredgade 47, Copenhagen K.

97 1 Cart
98 1 Large cart

TOYS

99 1 Letter cart
100 1 Number cart
101 1 Block cart
102 1 Harvest wagon

Cars

103 1 Motor car
104 1 Lorry
105 1 Trailer
106 1 Stream-lined car
107 1 Charabanc

Trains

108 1 Railway engine
109 1 Railway carriage
110 A–B 1 Goods train and rail
111 3-metre rail

Soldiers

112 A–F The officer, the drummer, the standard bearer, and three privates

Dolls

113 Ole (doll)
114 Lise (doll)

Animals

115 Rocking horse
116 Little horse
117 Little painted horse
118 Zebra

TOILET ARTICLES

A. Michelsen, Court Jeweller, Palægade 4, Copenhagen K.

119 A–D Hairbrush, powder-box, second box, and brush with crown design
120 Mirror
121 A–F Mirror, clothes brush, powder-box, tray, second box, and brush with hearts design

TOILET ARTICLES

122 A–B 2 Boxes with china pattern
123 1 Clothes brush
124 A–D 4 Glass trays in "Amico" lacquer and silver, by *Ib Lunding*, *Ole Hagen*, and others

LAMPSHADES

125 Paper samples from Le Klint, Lille Kirkestraede 1, Copenhagen K.

WALLPAPERS

3 Books of samples and 6 rolls lent by the Danish Wallpaper Factory, Lyngbyvej 170, Copenhagen
35 Rolls and 11 mounted samples from Dahl, Knabrostraede, Copenhagen K.

PRINTING

Framed pictures from the Sunday edition of the *Politiken* newspaper
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ERRATA

Owing to the fact that this catalogue had to be compiled before the exhibition reached England, the following additions and omissions should be noted:—

ADDITIONS:

2 Soup plates, dark blue star pattern, with under-plates to match.
1 Heavy cut-glass vase.
1 Hairbrush with hearts design.
4 Blue linen, hand-drawn table mats.

OMISSIONS:

Delete Nos. 7, 13 and 94 in the catalogue.
Nos. 22 and 23 refer to the same article: a child's bed designed by Peder Moos and made by Haandarbejdets Fremme.

CORRECTIONS:

No. 45, for 'case' read 'vase'.
Nos. 83–92, for designer 'Natalie Krebs' read 'Natalie Krebs and Eva Stæhr Nilesen'.

OTHER ARTS COUNCIL EXHIBITIONS

Hickman Bacon Collection of Watercolours
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